



Mescalero Apache Tribe

Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) Program

February 23, 2021

Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how the Mescalero Apache Tribe Child Care Program plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. Direct Services/Subsidies

- Resume providing child care assistance to qualified families residing within the Mescalero Apache Reservation service area.
- Assist with optional services for families in an amendment to pay in-home providers.
- Exempt relative providers for those families that would like to keep child at home during this pandemic.
- Provide early childhood intervention or educational assistance for children receiving services.
- Provide child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders or other workers deemed essential or frontline during this response to coronavirus. The eligibility will be defined under protective services to meet the needs of the children.

2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices:

- The Child Care will fully implement the CDC guidelines and provide assistance with equipment and materials.
- Equipment and materials will include, thermometer machines, PPE, masks, gloves, sanitizer and disinfectant, etc...
- Assist with updated air filtration systems or purchase cleaning devices.
- Provide additional funding to providers or centers to help meet health and safety guidelines to improve the quality of care provided.
- Require all staff to obtain Health and Safety Certification through the Early Learning Services for Child Care.



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3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers:

- Pay based on enrollment and not on daily attendance.
- Provide virtue professional development opportunities, staffing and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs.
- Provide centers with additional staff to meet social distancing guidelines and staff to child ratio.
- Provide assistance for providers to promote early learning.

4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic:

- The CCDF program will continue to provide assistance to all providers.
- Requirement to upkeep certification through the Early Learning Services.
- Collaboration with Supervisors/Manager to ensure continued assistance to providers in on-going.
- Provider continued support and encouragement for continued certification or college degree plans, with on-going collaboration with ENMU and staff.

5. Other:

- Review updates from the Center of Disease and Control website to ensure compliance with Child Care Operations.
- On-going monitoring compliance for child care inspection reports and provide assistance to centers.
- Review updated policies and meet with technical assistance to implement in-home care services for families that would like to start home care during the pandemic. Give them option to child care services.
- Provide encouragement and support to families and staff to obtain vaccination for COVID-19 and work with Indian Health Services.

The Mescalero Apache Tribe will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

Dannalyn Blake, Director/CCDF Coordinator
Child Care Program
Mescalero Apache Tribe

Cc: Gwendolyn Jones, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 6
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